

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test 2023 FAQ

The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test is a **one-time, paper-based test** made up of newly developed test items. All LEAs with eligible K-12 students are expected to administer the field test **in addition to** the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs test (grades 1-12) and K ACCESS. Your participation will help ensure that test items measure what they are intended to measure.

Many LEAs will likely not have any eligible MLLs to participate in this field test. Alternate assessments are needed only for a small number of students with significant cognitive disabilities. While most differently abled students (DAS) are able to participate in the general assessment program with accommodations and other supports, a few DAS statewide require a different kind of test to show what they know and can do. The term “significant cognitive disability” is not a separate category of disability. It is a designation given to less than 1% of students with disabilities for the purposes of participating in the statewide assessment program.

For additional information, please visit the [Alternate ACCESS Field Test](#) webpage. There you’ll find general information about the field test as well as what test coordinators and administrators need to know before, during, and after field testing.

Field Testing Window: 02/14/23 – 4/17/23

Frequently Asked Questions

Importance

Why have a field test? The [Advancing ALTELLA](#) team is working hard to redesign Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (grades 1-12) so that it covers kindergarten and so that WIDA can create an alternate screener. These newly developed test items are aligned to the [WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 Edition](#) and need to be vetted by you and your students to ensure they measure what they are intended to measure.

How will my students and I benefit from the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test? Not only will you reap the benefits of a brand-new alternate screener and a redesigned Alternate ACCESS that includes kindergarten, but all participating sites also get an advance copy of the WIDA Alternate Can Do Descriptors.

Participation

Who participates in the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test? If a student is an MLL and the IEP Team has found the student meets the criteria for the academic alternate assessments (Dynamic Learning Maps), then they will participate in the Alternate ACCESS field test. However, part of the WIDA and the Advancing ALTELLA team’s test development work is to

expand Alternate ACCESS for ELLs to include kindergarten, so we need kindergarteners to participate in the field test. Consider various special education disability categories without exclusively focusing on ID.

How do kindergarteners participate in the field test? To determine if a student can participate in the Alternate ACCESS field test, meet with the student's IEP team or follow your district's IEP amendment process to complete the *Rubric for Determining Student Participation on the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Kindergarten Field Test*.

Training

Do I need to get trained to administer the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test? To administer the field test, you'll need to complete the *Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring* training course. During the 22–23 school year, this training will include information and quiz questions about the field test. It is now live in the WIDA Secure Portal, and the added field test content should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

How long will it take to administer the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test? The field test will be similar in length to the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs test. As a reminder, each of the four domain tests for Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing) can take up to 20 minutes to administer, for a total test time of 80 minutes. Keep in mind that depending on the student, test times can be considerably shorter.

Materials

How do I get Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test materials? Field test materials start arriving as early as February 7, 2023. The number of materials you receive in your initial shipment will be based on the number of students who took Alternate ACCESS for ELLs in the 21-22 school year. For sites with kindergarten students, WIDA has estimated how many K-2 booklets you should need to account for these students. This initial field test shipment will arrive at the same location as all other Alternate ACCESS for ELLs test materials. To make additional materials orders, sites will use a Google form, not WIDA AMS.

How do I keep Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Field Test materials separate from other test materials? The field test materials will have unique visual markers, including

- different colors from Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
- spiral bindings on the test booklets
- the words “field test” on each and every cover
- an image of the field test dog

These markers help you keep test and field test materials separate. The field test training will provide more information on how to store, use, and return field test materials.